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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995
INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 1652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJ: CONSERVATIVE RETAKES TACHIKAWA MAYORALITY

REF: TOKYO 11790

SUMMARY. DEFEAT OF LEFTIST INCUMBENT IN TACHIKAWA MAYORAL ELECTION IS REMINDER THAT LDP VICTORIES FOFTEN HINGE ON SHIFTING ARRAY OF OPPOSITION FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSERVATIVE SHIRO KISHINAKA, WITH STRONG LDP-DSP SUPPORT, NARROWL
Y
OVERTURNED JSP-JCP BACKED ONE-TERM INCUMBENT KOZO ABE TO WIN TACHIKAW
A
MAYORAL ELECTION ON AUGUST 31. MARGIN WAS 455 OUT OF 60,000 VOTES.
BOTH MEN RAN AS NOMINAL INDEPENDENTS. KISHINAKA IS A PHYSICIAN AND
POLITICAL NOVICE. TREATED RATHER ROUTINELY IN REGULAR PRESS, JCP ORGA
N
AKAHATA GAVE ABE-KISHINAKA RACE HIGH ATTENTION JCP SEC-GEN TETSUZO FU
WA
VISITED TACHIKAWA DAY BEFORE ELECTION, BUT JSP HQ STAYED RATHER ALOOF
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2. COMMENT. VICTORY OF CONSERVATIVE KISHINAKA CAN PROBABLY BE TRACED TO SHIFT OF DSP AND KOMEITO FROM POSITIONS AKEN DURING 1971 MAYORAL ELECTION WHEN ABE WON BY 9,000 VOTES. THEN, SP WAS NEUTRAL AND KOMEITO RECOMMENDED, BUT DID NOT WORK FOR, ABE. THIS TIME, DSP WENT ALL OUT WITH LDP FOR KISHINAKA, AND KOMEITO (WHICH REPORTEDLY CONTROLS 9,500 VOTES IN TACHIKAWA) REMAINED NEUTRAL. IN MIDST OF CAMPAIGN, AND UNRELATED TO IT, SOKA GAKKAI PRESIDNT DAISAKU IKEDA AND KOMEITO CHAIRMAN YOSHIKATSU TAKEIRI MADE STATE-MENTS EMPHASIZING DISTANCE FROM JCP (REFTEL) IN ATTEMPT TO ERACE IMPRESSION THAT IKEDA-MIYAMOTO MEETING AND RECENTLY DISCLOSED TEN-YEAR GAKKAI/JCP COEXISTENCE PACT SIGNALED GAKKAI PRESSURE ON KOMEITO TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH JCP. KOMEITO SUPPORTERS MAY HAVE TAKEN THESE STATEMENTS AS GAKKAI KOMEITO TILT AWAY FROM ABE IN CONTEXT OF JCP'S FRANTIC EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ABE AND ELEVENTH-HOUR SALVO OF ANTI-COMMUNIST TRACTS FROM KISHINAKA CAMP.

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